THE PULPIT.

AN ELOQUENT SUNDAY SERMON BY THE REV. F. BOYD EDWARDS.

Subject: Personality.

Williamstown, Mass.—The Rev. F. Boyd Edwards, assistant pastor of the South Congregational Church, Brooklyn, who graduated from the college here seven years ago, was the college preacher Sunday. His subject was "Personality—Its Influence and Secret." The text was from 1 Thessalonians, 5:23: "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." Mr. Edwards said:

Huxley declared that if some great power would guarantee to enable him always to speak what is true and do what is right, on condition of his being turned into a sort of clock and wound up every morning, he would instantly close with the offer. Would you? I think not one man in a hundred would. Why not? Because we have instinctive aversion to doing violence to the greatest thing in the world. And what is that? Drummond said "Character." Let us look at it a little.

Consider Helen Keller, born to imprisonment in the dungeon of her own mute soul — deaf, blind, mute. Miss Sullivan, by patient and inspired genius, released her from that imprisonment, led her step by step out into the light and glory of life. The something which made Miss Sullivan eager and able to render this beautiful service was love. But the point of greatness even that high and beneficent quality is absolutely incomparable with Helen Keller herself. The supreme thing in the world is personality. Love is but a part of it, supporting and consisting in other parts, all beauty and majesty of character, all virtue and grit and courage, all mental keenness, reach, grasp and decision, all the subtle graces of mind and heart, high spiritual vision and deep insight, all purity, dignity and serene poise of spirit. These combine to make what we name personality.

Look about you in a railway carriage, a hotel lobby, a great college grandstand. Your eye passes lightly over 100 men. The 99 hundred and first holds it. You may not know who he is, nor care. We have seen him before, but straightway you say to yourself, he is somebody. Something about him distinguishes him, gives him a manifest significance, like the evident mark of a gold coin. That something is personality and it is self-revealing. Take Webster, for instance. They said when he walked in Boston street its sunshine was smaller. Sidney Smith called him the greatest living lie, because nobody could possibly be so great as he looked. Edward Everett declared that when he was earnestly speaking sparks of fire leaped in his eyes. A sculptor, we mistaken for a head of Jove. Or note how Emerson says that "William of Orange won a subject away from the King of France at every time he put off his hat," so noble was his bearing. A Boston newspaper reported that on a certain day Washington street was dark and gloomy, until Phillips Brooks passed, whereupon the brightness returned. One might have profited almost as much by a visit into Emerson's face as by reading his books. Just a glimpse of Napoleon on the hour of battle decided the fighting force of those who saw him. Often one can tell by the author's likeness in the frontispiece of a book whether it's worth while to go any farther. Details in art is far more than a mechanical contrivance to change manhood. It witnesses to the fact that true men create an atmosphere; they are fairly luminous. The captain of an athletic team, if well chosen, takes rank not by virtue of superior physical or technical knowledge of the game, but because there is in him such a quality which makes his vim and spirit contagious.

Church committees looking for a new minister pass by a score of possible eligibles and choose the twenty-first, and the others were as good speechers, as thorough scholars, as faithful pastors, but the elect one possesses this rare and compelling something we call magnetism, which is but a vague term inflating personality. The speaker who possesses it often influences his audience almost as much, while he stands silent before them for a moment or during the hour of his speaking. This is the quality which accounts for the saying: "You have to like Mr. Roosevelt after you have met him." Personality!—no other creation equals or approaches it. Jehovah, when Jehovah accredited Moses as His ambassador to the court of Pharaoh, He commanded as the chief authority, "Tell him I Am sent you."

Now, then, since personality is the greatest thing in the world, what is the chief end of man? Answer, deliberately: To honor, develop, express and invest his personality. This is not egotistic and selfish. God gave man this personality as his tool, the finest, noblest, chief implement with which to make his mark on the world, serve his kind and honor his Maker. When the old bishop of the Methodist Church was examining a group of candidates for the ministry, he asked them, "Why do you want to be a nobody in Christ's service?" And every last one of them responded as he thought answered yes. Then the prior left the room, except the bishop. And so they were. That is a kind of humility; there is in this Christian, because it is not only unproductive, but contemptible. Christian should be willing to take anything fitting, but whatever he may be, always determined by God's grace to be a hero, to fight, and to pray that as the servant of the Most High he shall weigh every ounce he can, strike blows that hit hard, and by no means to his time all that he can possibly signify.

Being a Christian man is being all a man can be. Holiness is near kin to holiness, which means health, and holiness comes to us when wholeness, which means integrity, soundness, completeness. Christian life is not giving up, but growing up; not going off, but bounding on. Its true note is not asceticism, but athletics, as when Christ announced that He came that men might have life more abundantly, He did not mean longer life, but richer life, more life, rich in scope and extent, with far horizons and wide outlook. Just this Browning emphasizes when he says:

God gives every man one life, one time; Then gives that lump due measure and bounty. Man lighted, half light, were simply clay.

All very fine, you say, for the man who happens to have been endowed with personality! But how about the hundred men who do not strike an observer as being somebody, who haven't the gift of personal magnetism? Well, my answer is that personality is not all endowment; it may be acquired, or more accurately yet, developed. When the spring comes and the sun's rays fall more warmly, the grass and leaves begin to grow. There are seeds in the ground and life-dormant and waiting to be stirred. The sun might shine a million years, hot as midsummer, and without those seeds lying there waiting, no fair garment of verdure would ever clothe the bare, brown body of earth. And vice versa. Just so, we notice now and again a former stenographer and private secretary to presidents becomes a Cabinet officer. Partly it is from native endowment, and partly from the wakening influence of association with great men. Character is not taught, but caught; not fully inborn, nor springing, full armed, like Minerva from Zeus's head, but awakened, roused, kindled by the contagious touch of another of a little longer development, and maybe, of larger growth. Yet after all, this is the fine fundamental secret of life. Every person of unique value, has a rare gleam of virtue for his own, here and there, his individual work and message, which no other man can have had. His business in life is to live that out, build it out, make it effective.

How shall he do it? By getting out where the sun can strike down to those seeds that are waiting in him; these make the helpful friendships, listen to wise teachers, keep high company with men who have deeps and heights about them. Paul, when he wrote to the men in Thessalonica: "The very God of peace sanctify you wholly," was the secret of Finney's power, and it will be the secret of the power of anyone who lives to-day. Rain and seeds, sunrise, I. Wilbur Chapman, reports the daily fulfilling which the quiet hour supplies.

When Every Man Must Stand Alone.

Whosoever will go to heaven must have faith of his own. In Gideon's camp every soldier had his own pitcher and every Solomon's men of valor every one wore his own sword; and these were they that got the victory. The fire in which virgins had every one oil in her lamp; and only these went in with the bridegroom. As each one's eating of dainty meat makes no one none the fatter.—T. Adams.

Johnny Was a Sport.

It happened in Sunday-school one of the children had studied their lessons, apparently, and as for Johnny, the new boy, he wasn't supposed to know much about it, so he how.

"Now, Willie," said the teacher, "who was it swallowed Jonah?"

"I dun'no," giggled Willie.

"Bobbie, can you tell me who swallowed Jonah?" continued the teacher.

"You can search me," said Bobbie.

"Tommy, who swallowed Jonah?" asked the teacher, a little severely this time.

"Please, ma'am," whimpered Tommy, "it wasn't me."

"Well, I declare!" ejaculated the teacher. Then turning to the new boy, she asked, "Johnny, who swallowed Jonah?"

"I'll bite," said Johnny. "What's the answer?"—Harper's Weekly.

Major Charles E. Woodruff, surgeon, U. S. A., is promulgating again his celebrated theory that sunshine is unhealthful.

Soil Formation.

All soils are formed from disintegrated rocks and organic matter. Of the latter, soils contain from one to more than seventy per cent.; it is, however, only in bogs or beds of peat that the amount last named is ever present. The best market lands contain only from four to six per cent. of organic matter; oats and rye will grow in soils containing only one or two. The intelligent farmer should endeavor to ascertain what is wanting in the soil and supply it, remembering that he can make no possible mistake with barnyard manure.

No Justice to Poultry.

Poultry should now be filling the egg basket, and still, if they have justice done them. It is not enough that they are well fed; other conditions are required. Their houses should be well cleansed, their nest boxes thoroughly washed and a little quicklime sprinkled in them. The floors of their houses should also be well sprinkled with quicklime, and the roosting poles whitewashed. All these are necessary to purify the atmosphere and destroy the vermin that infest these places. The cooking process should also be applied to the horse, cow and sheep stables.

The Increase in Silos.

According to figures published by the Department of Agriculture, there were in 1898 but ninety-one farmers in the United States so far as I know who were using the silo as an adjunct to their agricultural operations. Now they number nearly 500,000. While the first silos were only used by men engaged in the dairy business on a large scale, they are to-day prized just as highly by those who are engaged in stock raising or any kind. In fact, wherever corn will grow and stock of any kind is raised there is a place for the silo.

Don't Overcrowd the Hens.

Filling a poultry house with hens and crowding them together, will not conduce to eggs production. It is not the one with the largest flocks that derives the best results, but the one who rananges properly. Food may be given bountifully and liberally, but it will not make the hens lay if the other conditions are not observed. In proportion as they are higher than in the outlying sections. Where mixed hay retails for $8 to $9 per ton, corn for fifty cents per bushel, and oats thirty-five cents per bushel, it is safe to say that the average work horse, weighing 1400 or less, can be fed the entire year and kept in good flesh for $40.

In the first estimate made above it will be noticed that the price on gluten feed is quoted. It has been found that this materialcan be fed to horses with excellent results, especially in the spring, when the animals need a variety. A ration composed of one part gluten feed, one part oats and two parts corn make almost the ideal mixture for the work horse. The animal should have enough of mixtures to maintain his condition, however, about one pound per day for each 100 pounds the animal weighs is considered the proper amount.

Fertile vs. Infertile Eggs.

The Country Gentleman referring to the statement of a Montreal woman in a poultry journal that she has been able to distinguish between eggs that will produce males and those producing females by beating the air cells, those having the cell directly across the large and hatching cockerels, while those having cells lying slanting slightly contributed pullets, thinks scientists might well devote some time to such matters, and advise some easy method of distinguishing fertile eggs from infertile ones before they are placed in the incubator or placed under the hen—in fact before they leave the hands of the seller if they are boughten. This would save a lot of disappointment. The common custom is to test eggs after four or five days, removing those not showing indications of fertility. These are not in the least injured by the few days' heating. But this latter business, while it saves a part of the hatch, does not do away with the disappointment at paying well for valuable eggs only to have too large a percentage prove infertile. Incidentally it is worth mention that even the experimenting Montreal dame could not tell until she arrives at the conclusion that the straight across air cell produces the cockerel, since the hatch of fowls generally follows them equally divided in sex as the air cells indicated they would be.

Variety and Profit.

The farmer should make stock raising more profitable by growing a variety of crops, instead of depending mainly upon one crop. Such a variety gives the farmer more advantages. If he grows turnips he secures them late in the season, usually after liability of dry weather has passed; also raises plenty of roots and will enable him to economize with the grain and hay. He can also grow corn fodder, cowpeas and rape, the latter affording excellent pasturage for sheep and swine when grass may not be abundant. But it is not so much the growing of various crops for sale as it is the feeding that should consider so much attention. A few bushels of the best potatoes and a few roots for each head of stock, with a variety of fodder, will enable him to economize with the grain and hay. He can also grow sugar beets, especially in the spring, as they are easily raised, and